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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 27, 2008. Claims 1-24 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form, and claims 1, 7 and 13-24 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, without narrowing a scope of the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1-24 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment, with claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19 and 21 being in independent form.

Claims 13-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as purportedly directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, the claims have been carefully reviewed and amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,279 to Nguyen et al.

The Office Action also indicates that claims 3-6 and 9-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claims 3, 9, 15 and 21 have been amended by rewriting them in independent form.

Applicant submits that independent claims 3, 9, 15 and 21, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Further, independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19 (and the claims depending therefrom) are allowable over the cited art because the cited art fails to disclose or suggest further dividing the

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coefficients or the codes of each of the first units into a plurality of second units, each of the second units including plural codes, and increasing the amount of code reduction for each of the second units according to values of the coefficients or the codes of each of the second units.

Nguyen, as understood by applicant, proposes an approach for performing image compression through piecewise compression of image data block-by-block, wherein the coefficients of a block transform process are mapped into a tree structure of the data of a global transform process, and the tree type mapping is overlaid in block transform data for the purpose of tree truncation compression.

Nguyen, Fig. 9 (reproduced below), was cited in the Office Action.

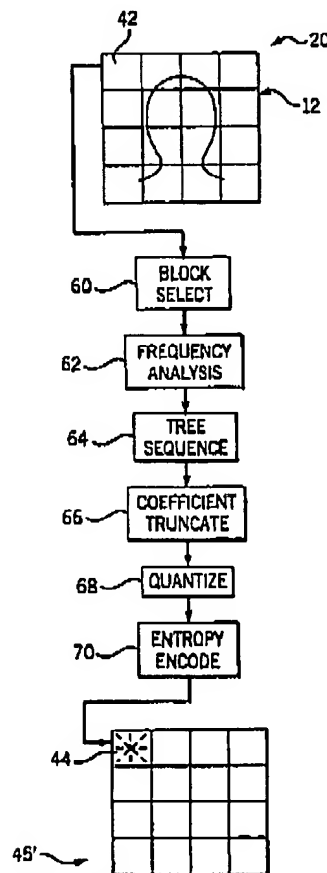


FIG. 9

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Coefficient truncate block 66 and entropy encode block 70 of Nguyen were equated in the Office Action with (a) reducing an amount of the codes of each of the first units and (b) further dividing the coefficients or the codes of each of the first units into a plurality of second units, each of the second units including plural codes, and increasing the amount of code reduction for each of the second units according to values of the coefficients or the codes of each of the second units, respectively. The Office Action apparently equates coefficient blocks 44 in Nguyen with first units in the claimed subject matter of the present application.

Nguyen, column 7, lines 7-12, states as follows regarding operation of the entropy encode block 70 of Nguyen:

At succeeding process block 70 entropy encoding may be performed such as "Huffmann coding" in which frequently transmitted coefficients are assigned short bit representations, "bit plane coding" in which most significant bits are transmitted prior or instead of least significant bits, or "arithmetic coding", all well understood in the art.

However, although the entropy encode block 70 of Nguyen reduces the number of bits representing a coefficient, neither the coefficient nor the bits are a plurality of second units, each second unit including a plurality of codes.

Further, the entropy encode block 70 of Nguyen merely reduces the number of bits representing a coefficient, but does NOT increase the amount of code reduction for each of the second units *according to values of the coefficients or the codes of each of the second units*.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees in connection with this amendment, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit

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Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400